

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Corrected Minutes of the Regular Meeting

The Board of Education of the Pacific Grove Unified School District held a meeting on October 2, 2008 at the Pacific Grove High School Library.

I. OPENED BUSINESS

- A. Called to Order 6:30 p.m.
- B. Roll Call
- | | |
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| President: | Mike Niccum |
| Members Present: | Jessie Bray
Bill Phillips
Tony Sollecito |
| Members Absent: | Beth Shammass |
| Administration Present: | Ralph Porras
Robin Blakley (7:00 p.m.) |
| Board Recorder: | Laura Emerson |
| Student Board Member Present: | Brandon Cypress (6:50 p.m.) |

C. Adopted Agenda

MOTION Bray/Phillips to adopt agenda as presented
Public comment: none
Motion CARRIED 4 – 0

D. Identified Closed Session Topics
Personnel Matter

E. Public comment on Closed Session items - none

F. Adjourned to Closed Session 6:33 p.m.

II. CLOSED SESSION

III. RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION 7: 05 p.m.

A. Reported action taken in Closed Session

Personnel Matter

The Board discussed this matter and gave direction to staff

B. Pledge of Allegiance pledge recited

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Written Communication

Porras said he received several emails regarding items on the agenda.

B. Board Member Comments

Cepress said the students are looking forward to participating in the Butterfly Bazaar. He distributed to Board members a list of student comments and suggestions regarding food service at the High School.

Bray was glad to see so many people in the audience and would like representatives from each site to regularly attend meetings.

Sollecito read in the newspaper about the County's financial losses in its portfolios that also included school district money.

Porras explained the County's financial situation as it was presented at a MCOE meeting he had attended earlier in the day.

Blakley said PGUSD has very little in the County Treasurer at any one time, that the largest amount is bond funds that are waiting to be used. We could loose up to \$100,000 in the worst case, primarily through lost interest across all funds. The impact on the general fund would be minimal. The advice we are receiving from MCOE is not to budget for any interest income this year.

C. Superintendent Report

Porras said he is looking forward to the Butterfly Parade and Bazaar this week end.

V. **INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Nancy Parsons introduced Minsu Park and Elene Amiranashvili, who were students in the district's English Language Development program. When they enrolled in Forest Grove they had no English speaking or comprehension skills and one year later, they have achieved academic excellence.

Fred Hardee is concerned about students not being able to use the newly-opened parking lot off Sunset Drive.

Staci Consiglio said the area Bell recommends for student parking has no crosswalk or sidewalk.

Toula Hubbard asked the Board to look into policy for staff showing movies to children in the BASRP. (Niccum asked staff to look into the policy.)

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes of September 18, 2008 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- B. Certificated Assignment Order # 4
- C. Classified Assignment Order #4
- D. Acceptance of Donations
- E. Warrant Schedules No. 479
- F. Revolving Cash Report No. 1
- G. Cash Receipts Report No. 1
- H. Budget Revision 1 for Pacific Grove Middle School Single School Plan for 2008-09
- I. Out of County or Overnight Activities
- J. Approval of Contract for Services – Peninsula Sports Management Group – MS Sports Officiating
- K. Approval of ELD Contract for Services - Nancy Parsons
- L. Acceptance of Measure D Exterior Painting Project

MOTION Sollecito/Bray to approve Consent Agenda as presented
Public comment – none
Motion CARRIED 4 – 0

VII. ACTION/DISCUSSION

A. Transportation Contract for Special Education Student

The Board discussed this matter. The district will need to provide transportation for this student, based on the IEP. Sollecito asked if the staff had looked into less costly alternatives. Blakley said that we had and there is the possibility that another student from another district sharing the same transportation would reduce the cost by half. Other transportation options were also discussed.

MOTION Sollecito/Phillips to approve the contract for transportation services with Central Coast Kids and Families (CCKF) and continue to look at alternatives.
Public comment: The possibility of having any commuting teachers help with the transportation of the students was suggested.
Motion CARRIED 4 - 0

B. Elementary Reconfiguration Goals, Process and Timeline

Porras gave a Powerpoint presentation on reconfiguration and said it would be available on the district's website with all the other information he has posted on the subject.

Following Niccum's suspension of the time limits for public comment, the following people offered their comments about reconfiguration. (Every effort was made to get the correct spelling of every speaker's name. If your name is misspelled, please contact lemerson@pgusd.org with the correct spelling.)

Public Comment:

Susan Nine, Jane Shoemaker, Dr. Kristen Polson Sawyer, Linda Bailey, Barrett Heywood, Ajay Stone, Phillip Zimetoff, Mike Cargile, Ron Woods, Alex Taurke, Erik Lawrenzson, Bruce Leivenberg, Elin Kelsey, Simson Garfinkle, Steve Albert, Marta (last name unknown), Mary Liston, Paula Crivello, Tammy Stickler, Toulou Hubbard, Mary Hiserman, Elliot Booker, Simon Tuffs, Kathleen Lee, Steve Ibrahim, Daniel Pick, Karen Levy, and Rick Cosand.

- Both previous task force groups rejected reconfiguration because the community, staff and parents did not support it.
- Negatives outweigh positives; younger students need stability and older ones gain responsibility through K-5.
- District should find alternative ways of balancing class size.
- Board should look at cost/benefit and maintain neighborhood schools.
- Both schools have a community about them that would be destroyed with reconfiguration.
- Younger children learn from the older children.
- Not sure the claims in favor of reconfiguration are worth it.
- MPUSD reconfiguration tore apart their community; discuss the matter with eyes wide open.
- Being able to walk or ride to neighborhood schools is a benefit.
- Superintendent's presentation was clear that this is about class size and academics.
- Urged to have more listening sessions
- In a tragedy, which child do you pick up first?

- (A parent who experienced reconfiguration) saw lots of advantages, did staggered bell schedule; however, parent conferences, performances, fundraising goes down, PTA goes down, big kids vs. little kids; will impact the entire city.
- Research found that less than 7% of schools are reconfigured, most are K-5 and K-8, literature discourages low grade splits, we need to do our homework on this issue.
- Kids are getting better education than in previous private schools.
- “Baby school” and “older school” a disaster, perfect to stop it now.
- Impacts on developmental changes were not mentioned, heard through gossip, sounds like it should be a long term plan.
- Would like to see more analysis. Moved here to live within walking distance to school.
- Modeling [younger children of older] is a huge learning experience, children learn more from what they see than what they hear
- Teachers will be insulated from learning from higher grade teachers.
- David Avenue kinders had hard time adjusting to first grade; second graders going to 3rd would also have a hard time
- The current discontinuity of staff development will be addressed with an ongoing curriculum director.
- Teachers and community should be involved in discussion.
- Teachers are opposed as their enthusiasm might suffer.
- Took Washington Union nine years to adjust to reconfiguration.
- Thanked parents for supporting teachers.
- Teachers do not need a fancy science lab to be better teachers.
- Relationships between grades is great, no problem in communication between schools.
- Values talking to younger grade teachers rather than her peer teachers.
- Transitions are stressful.
- Former student with dyslexia saw 5th graders as role models, and went on to become a role model himself.
- Parent bought their house between the school sites so their child could walk to all schools.
- This is being done to make it easier for administrators, time to be innovative.
- Cannot use old data, much collaboration already exists.
- Safety concerns of children walking home.
- If we don't end this now, these parents won't vote for the parcel tax.
- No problem can't be solved with management control.
- Reconfiguration lacks opportunities and flexibility.

MOTION Phillips/Sollecito to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.; motion CARRIED 4 – 0

Board Comments:

Bray said, “Thank you again for being here. I have listened closely to all that has been said. This does not have to be a controversial or adversarial situation. We can come together in a problem-solving mode.”

Sollecito said this can only work if teachers and the community are in support.

Phillips asked everyone to keep an open mind. While our district's test scores are among the best in Monterey County, they are not good when looking at comparable districts. He wants to take the discussion of reconfiguration to the next step. He had not thought about the idea of a “little school/big school” problem.

Niccum has been involved with reconfiguration since 2003 when he served on the task force. The conclusion of that group was that class size balancing issues can be solved with reconfiguration. It is the Board's goal to increase every student's educational experience. The plan was to have a meeting with the teachers. If they hadn't liked it, the process would have stopped there because reconfiguration will only work if everyone buys into it. Even though it now appears clear that there is not support for reconfiguration, we should still move forward with a meeting with the teachers – but to discuss ways to improve the educational program and not reconfiguration per se.

MOTION Niccum/Phillips to meet with teachers and have a dialogue about the district's educational program.

Motion CARRIED 4 – 0

C. Discussion of Joint City/District Meeting

No action taken

D. Board Calendar/Future Meetings

MOTION Bray/Sollecito to add

1. October 9 (7:00 p.m.) Special Meeting to discuss Measure D

2. October 22 (3:30 p.m.) Special Meeting to discuss district's educational program with teachers.

Public comment: none

Motion CARRIED 4 - 0

VIII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Subcommittee Reports

Community Human Services

nothing to report

City/District

nothing to report

ROP

nothing to report

B. Renewal of Board Goals and Superintendent Goals

Moved to October 23rd agenda

C. Review of Instructional Minutes/Instructional Day – CSBA Taskforce Findings

Moved to October 23rd agenda

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Policy on BASRP

B. Future Agenda Items

Bell Schedule

Green District

Measure D Special Sessions

Summary Report of Board Self Evaluation

Policy on grounds – landscaping and maintenance

X. **ADJOURNED**

11:00 p.m.